

Mr. Chairman and Members of The Committee,

My name is Philip Hathaway. I am Commissioner for Sweet Grass County. My fellow commissioners and I are asking you to consider this legislation to allow counties and cities to take advantage of a great opportunity. C.R.E.B.S. is a chance of a life time for small communities to build some infrastructure at very little out of pocket expense.

CREBS could help create a revenue stream for our future because instead of paying for the energy, it pays for itself. This opportunity would create many benefits from a simple project, but without this legislation this cannot happen. A major benefit of this project is that it is funded by investors rather than the taxpayers. Wind energy is also clean and as everyone knows, wind is VERY abundant in Sweet Grass County. Furthermore, if we do not take advantage of our resources here, then out of state or foreign corporations will. And, instead of the money from the wind revenue helping county budgets, it will be lost.

We are asking to make it legal for us to pursue the CREBS project. Nothing will happen if the windmill projects are not legal, profitable, and feasible. Without this legislation these three things will not be achieved, and these projects cannot go any further.

It would be a shame if our counties and cities were not able to take advantage of the legislation made available by the hard work of our congressional delegation led by ^{Senator} Max Baucus. Wind energy and other renewable energy sources are the way of the future. And, the future starts today.

Thank You for your time.